

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01273 01 OF 03 101639Z

47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-03 OMB-01 H-01 IGA-01 AGR-05 DODE-00 EB-07 PA-01

PRS-01 MED-02 /072 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6985

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL CALI

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 3 BOGOTA 1273/1

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR CO S/NM

SUBJECT: SEMI ANNUAL NARCOTICS REPORT

REF: (A) A-4700 B STATE 012151

1. SUMMARY

THE NEW LOPEZ ADMINISTRATION WHICH TOOK OFFICE AUGUST 7, 1974 HAS GIVEN A HIGH PRIORITY TO THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. COOPERATIVE OFFICIALS OF THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION WERE RETAINED AND NEW DIRECTORS WERE APPOINTED FOR BOTH DAS AND COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS, BOTH OF WHOM INSTITUTED MAJOR CHANGES IN ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE THE INTEGRITY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENCIES. BOTH DIRECTORS PLEDGED THEIR FULL COOPERATION IN THE NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PROGRAM. IN A VERY SHORT SPAN OF TIME, DAS ESTABLISHED A NARCOTICS ACTION PLAN, NAMED PERSONNEL TO CONSTITUTE A SPECIAL NARCOTICS UNIT, 50 OF WHOM RECEIVED IN-COUNTRY TRAINING PROVIDED BY DEA, A220,400 DOL PRO-AG IS READY FOR SIGNATURES.

DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD, DAS AND THE NATIONAL POLICE HAVE
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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 01273 01 OF 03 101639Z

SEIZED AIRPLANES AND VEHICLES INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFIC

WHICH THEY ARE ATTEMPTING TO CONVERT TO THEIR OWN USE UNDER DECREE 1188, ARTICLE 52, SIGNED JUNE 25, 1974. DAS SEIZED A LOADSTAR TWIN ENGINE AIRCRAFT AND THE NATIONAL POLICE SEIZED A DC-3 AIRCRAFT WITH 100 KILOS OF COCAINE, ALSO SEVERAL VEHICLES, FIVE IN ONE INSTANCE ALONE. THE LEGAL PROCEDURES ARE NOW UNDERWAY TO TEST THE VALIDITY OF THE ACTION TAKEN BASED ON THE ABOVE STATED DECREE.

2. (A) PROJECT AGREEMENTS IN FORCE DURING PERIOD 1 JULY -31 DEC 1974 IN THE FIELD OF ENFORCEMENT.

(1) FY-1973 NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PRO-AG WITH NATIONAL POLICE DATED 29 JUNE 1973, FINAL CONTRIBUTION DATE: 30 JUNE 1975, 275000 DOLS IN COMMODITIES AND 45,000 DOLS OTHER COSTS.

(2) FY-74 NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PRO-AG WITH COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS DATED: 26 JUNE 1974, FINAL CONTRIBUTION DATE: 30 JUNE 1977, 200,000 IN COMMODITIES AND 10,000 OTHER COSTS.

(3) FY-75 NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PRO-AT WITH NATIONAL POLICE DATED: 1 AUG 1974, FINAL CONTRIBUTION DATE 1 AUG 1976. 129,000 DOLS IN COMMODITIES.

(B) TOTAL OBLIGATIONS OF 1975 FUNDS DURING PERIOD COVERED:

(1) PERSONNEL: 37,612.77 DOLS

(2) EQUIPMENT: 129,000.00

(3) CONTRACT SERVICES: NONE

(4) OTHER: 1,367.40 DOLS

(5) TRAINING: 464.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF ALL-YEAR MONIES DURING PERIOD

PERSONNEL: 37,612.77 DOLS

EQUIPMENT: 190,000.00

CONTRACT SERVICES NONE

OTHER: 10,000.00 DOLS

TRAINING: 464.00

(C) EQUIPMENT DELIVERED DURING THE PERIOD

TYPE

	QUANTITY	COST
VIDEO TAPE SYSTEM	1	2,086.90
VEHICLES, (JEEPS, SEDANS, PICK-UPS AND PANEL TRUCKS)	22	94,548.06
OFFICE EQUIPMENT, (SAFES & AUTOMATED FILE)	4 PEICES	6,680.66

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PAGE 03 BOGOTA 01273 01 OF 03 101639Z

RADIO CYRSTALS	48	1,248.00
NARCOTEST DISPOSAKITS	63	1,848.25
BINOCULARS	37	1,543.20
TOTAL DOLS		107,955.07
EQUIPMENT IN PIPELINE AS OF 31 DEC 1974:		
VEHICLES, (SEDANS, PICK-UPS , JEEPS)	24	104,180.46
BOATS 35 FT & UTILITY	4	32,155.80
OUTBOARD MOTORS	6	5,933.20

SPARE PARTS FOR MOTORS

	260.31	
MANUAL TYPEWRITERS	9	2,500.00
COMMUNICATIONS EQUIP (26 WALKIE TALKIES		
14 CHARGERS 4 CONSOLES 3 REPEATERS)		65,000.00
TOTAL DOLS	210,029.77	

(D) SUPPORT COSTS: N.A.

(E) NUMBER AND TYPE OF PEOPLE TRAINED WITH 482 FUNDS:

PIO/P 514-175-1-50030 WAS ISSUED IN AMOUNT OF 460 DOLS TO
COVER INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OF ONE DAS OFFICIAL IN DEA, ENFORCEMENT
COURSE NBR 7.

DEA IN-COUNTRY TRAINING OF 50 NATIONAL POLICEMEN FROM 4 NOV
TO 15 NOV 1974 WAS SUPPORTED TO THE EXTEND OF 5,500 PESOS
(196.00 DOLS) FROM PRO-AG OTHER COST MONIES.

(F) U.S. PERSONNEL AT POST AS OF 31 DEC 1974 DEVOTING MORE THAN
50 PERCENT OF TIME TO NARCOTICS CONTROL:

AID: TWO DIRECT HIRE

DEA: FOUR SPECIAL AGENTS AND TWO U.S. SECSTS.

3. (A) (SAME AS PARA 1. ABOVE)

(B) ABUSE

PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN DURING THIS REPORT-
ING PERIOD WITH THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL
COUNCIL ON NARCOTICS CONCERNING AN AGREEMENT TO FACILITATE A
STUDY, SURVEY OR SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF THE EXTEND OF DRUG ABUSE
AMONG COLOMBIANS. HOWEVER, TO DATE THE EXTENT OF ABUSE IN
COLOMBIA IS A MATTER OF GUESSWORK BASED ON INCOMPLETE STATISTICS
AND NUMBERS AND TYPES OF ARRESTS MADE BY COLOMBIAN ENFORCEMENT
AUTHORITIES. ON THIS BASIS IT APPEARS THAT COCAINE USE IS
LIMITED WITH ONLY CRIMINAL GROUPS AND YOUNGSTERS OF THE HIGHER
SOCIAL GROUPS CHOOSING TO USE COCAINE. MARIHUANA USE APPEARS
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PAGE 04 BOGOTA 01273 01 OF 03 101639Z

TO BE ON THE INCREASE AND IS BY FAR THE DRUG MOST OFTEN ABUSED
BY COLOMBIANS. AMPHETAMINES, BARBITURATES, AND OTHER SYNTHETIC
DRUGS CONTINUE TO BE USED BY SOME COLOMBIANS WITH SOME EVIDENCE
IN POLICE RECORDS THAT THESE DRUGS ARE BEING IMPORTED FROM THE
US HOWEVER, FROM THE ABUSE STANDPOINT, THIS PROBLEM IS NOT
CONSIDERED GRAVE. THE NEWS MEDIA HAS CONTINUALLY GIVEN CON-
SIDERABLE COVERAGE TO THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM IN COLOMBIA AND TO
THE VARIOUS ARRESTS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF PERSONS
INVOLVED IN THE USE OF DRUGS. A NATIONAL WEEKLY TV PROGRAM,
MENTIONED IN DETAIL LATER, HAS AS ITS CENTRAL THEME THE DRUG
ABUSE PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SIX DRUG TREATMENT CENTERS
IN OPERATION THROUGHOUT COLOMBIA WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM
THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY, THERE IS SOME
COMPLAINT THAT THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH AND JUSTICE ARE NOT
SERIOUSLY SUPPORTING THESE TREATMENT EFFORTS. A POSSIBLE

SOLUTION TO THE LACK OF INTEREST ON THE PART OF HIGH-LEVEL GOC AUTHORITIES WOULD BE A COMPREHENSIVE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM IN COLOMBIA. ALTHOUGH THERE APPEARS TO BE GENUINE CONCERN AND AWARENESS ON THE PART OF ALL HIGH GOC OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT, OF THE TOTAL DRUG PROBLEM IN COLOMBIA, THE MAJOR CONCERN IS WITH THE ENFORCEMENT ASPECT. THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE SEVERAL STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT HE IS GREATLY CONCERNED BY THE ROLE COLOMBIA PLAYS IN THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG SCENE AND INTENDS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. HOWEVER, LESS INTEREST HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE PROBLEM OF DRUG ABUSE WITHIN THE COUNTRY.

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01273 02 OF 03 101624Z

47

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 3 BOGOTA 1273/2

(C) PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING

IN LATE JUNE 1974 GOC DECREE 1188 ESTABLISHED GUIDELINES FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION AS A NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM. THE DECREE STATES THAT THE CULTIVATION OF MARIHUANA IS ILLEGAL AND SHOULD BE DESTROYED WITHOUT REGARD FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION. THE CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM IS DIRECTED TOWARDS THE COCA PLANT GROWN BY THE INDIGENOUS INDIANS FOR THEIR OWN USE. ANY COCA GROWN FOR COMMERCIAL USE SHOULD BE DESTROYED WITHOUT CONSIDERATION FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION. LARGE NUMBERS OF MARIHUANA PLANTATIONS ARE

REPORTED IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF MAGDALENA, CESAR, ATLANTICO, ANTIOQUIA, CHOCO AND VALLE AS WELL AS IN VARIOUS AREAS OF THE THINLY POPULATED AMAZON PLAINS. MARIHUANA CROP YIELD IS ESTIMATED CONSERVATIVELY AT 50 TONS PER MONTH. BASED ON CLIMATIC CONDITIONS, PLANTING AND COLLECTION TAKES PLACE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO COCA PLANTATIONS IS EXTREMELY LIMITED. NATIONAL POLICE REPORT THE COCA PLANTATIONS ARE PRESENTLY LOCATED IN THE SANTA MARTA SIERRA NEVADA AREA AND ALONG THE ECUADORIAN/COLOMBIAN BORDER. THERE IS NO INFORMATION AS TO CROP YIELD AND ACREAGE.

(D) TRAFFICKING TRENDS

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 01273 02 OF 03 101624Z

THE BANANA GROWERS AND SHIPPERS ALONG THE NORTH COAST OF COLOMBIA IN THE AREA OF TURBO HAVE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF ILLICIT DRUGS LEAVING THE AREA IN THEIR VESSELS. THEY FEAR THAT THESE VESSELS WILL BE INSPECTED AND DELAYED IN THE U.S. THEREBY DISRUPTING THE BANANA TRADE. THE BANANA GROWERS HAVE GONE TO THE GOVERNOR OF ANTIOQUIA TO REQUEST GOC AND U.S. ASSISTANCE. THE NATIONAL POLICE AND DEAPERSONNEL RECENTLY CONDUCTED A SURVEY OF THE SITUATION AND HAVE TAKEN THE FOLLOWING STEPS: A) THE NATIONAL POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER IN THIS AREA HAS ASSIGNED THREE NATIONAL POLICEMEN TO INSPECT ALL VESSELS AND INVESTIGATE THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. B) TO ASSIST THEM, THE GOVERNOR HAS FURNISHED AVEHICLE AND THE BANANA GROWERS HAVE SUPPLIED MARINE TRANSPORTATION. C) THE NATIONAL POLICE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE, ARE DEVELOPING EVIDENCE ON SUSPECTED AND KNOWN TRAFFICKERS IN THE AREA IN AN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THEIR PROSECUTION. DEA IS ASSISTING WITH THE INVESTIGATION. (REF MEDELLIN-259, STATE-194263 AND BOGOTA-8096).

ORGANIZED COLOMBIAN NETWORKS ARE ENGAGED IN THE SMUGGLING OF COCA PASTE, SULPHATE AND COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE FROM THE ANEDAN COCA PRODUCING COUNTRIES INTO COLOMBIA. ALL AVAILABLE MEANS OF AIR, LAND AND SEA TRANSPORTATION ARE USED BY THE NETWORKS TO SMUGGLE THE NARCOTICS AT KEY ENTRY POINTS SUCH AS TUMACO, IPIALIS, LEGUIZAMO, POPAYAN, CALI, BUENAVENTURA AND BOGOTA.

COCA PASTE AND SULPHATE ARE THEN MOVED FROM THE AFOREMENTIONED ENTRY POINTS TO CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES FOR CONVERSION TO COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE. THE LABORATORIES ARE GENERALLY LOCATED WITHIN THREE DRIVING HOURS OF MAJOR METROPOLITAN CENTERS.

FROM THE LABORATORIES THE FINISHED PRODUCT IS STOCK PILED BY THE

NETWORKS AWAITING EXPORT TO CONSUMER COUNTRIES.

THE FINISHED PRODUCT IS EXPORTED FROM COLOMBIA TO THE US VIA MEXICO CANADA AND EUROPE. THERE IS ALSO DIRECT EXPORT TO THE US BY ALL VAILABLE MEANS OF PRIVATE AND COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION. THREE IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTICS OF COCAINE TRAFFIC AFFECT-

ING THE US ARE (1. THE NUMBER OF PRIVATE US REGISTERED AIR-CRAFT AND VESSELS COMING TO COLOMBIA TO PICK UP NARCOTICS: 2. THE LARGE NUMBERS OF COLOMBIANS USED AS COURIERS TO DELIVER SMALL AMOUNTS OF NARCOTICS INTO THE US 3. THE UNKNOWN AMOUNTS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BOGOTA 01273 02 OF 03 101624Z

NARCOTICS MAILED INTO THE US IN SMALL QUANTITIES.)

(E) REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

DURING THS REPORTING PERIOD THERE HAS BEEN NO ACTIVITIY IN THIS CATEGORY. HOWEVER,DURING 1974 THE NATIONAL POLICE OF COLOMBIA HOSTED A REGIONAL MEETING OF CHIEFS OF POLICE FROM VARIOUS SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES CONCERNING THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. THE MEETING WAS CONSIDERED A SUCCESS AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL POLICE HAS EXPRESSED DESIRES TO HAVE SIMILAR MEETINGS YEARLY TO BE HOSTED BY VARIOUS COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, NONE OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE OR OFFERED TO HOST A SECOND MEETING. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH AN INVATION, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL POLICE OF COLOMBIA PLANS A SECOND SUCH MEETING IN COLOMBIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

(F) EMBASSY AND HOST COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD, PRESIDENT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN TOOK OFFICE IN COLOMBIA AND IMMEDIATELY NAMED NEW CHIEFS FOR DAS AND FOR CUSTOMS. SHORTLY AFTER TAKING OFFICE, THE PRESIDENT MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND WAS PRESENTED A "NARCOTICS WORK SHEET" PREPARED BY THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COMMITTEE. AT THAT TIME AND SUBSEQUENTLY, THE PRESIDENT HAS EXPRESSED HIS GRAVE CONCERN ABOUT THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN COLOMBIA AND PLEDGED HIS FULL SUPPORT OF THE NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PRGRAM. HE HAS USED THE DOCUMENT PRESENTED BY THE AMBASSADOR IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PRESENTATIONS AS A GUIDELINE IN GAINING SUPPORT FOR AN IMPROVED NARCOTICS PROGRAM THROUGHOUT COLOMBIA.

THE ATMOSPHERE OF COOPERATION AND EARNEST EFFORT IN THE NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PROGRAM AT DAS HAS NOTICEABLY IMPROVED UNDER THE NEW CHIEF, MAJOR GENERL JOSE JOAQUIN MATAALLANA. AN ACTIVE ARMY GENERAL MATAALLANA IS WELL KNOWN AS A DRIVING LEADER WHO HAS THE ABILITY TO ACCOMPLISH GOALS WHERE OTHERS FAIL. HE IS ALSO KNOWN FOR HIS HONESTY AND INTEGRITY. HE WAS CHARGED BY THE PRESIDENT WITH A MAJOR SHARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COLOMBIA'S FIGHT AGAINST THE DRUG TRAFFIC. HE IMMEDIATELY TOOK STEPS TO UPGRADE THE REPUTATION AND INTEGRITY OF DAS WHICH LED TO THE REPLACEMENT OF ALL DAS UNIT CHIEFS AND MANY LESSER PERSONNEL. HE IMMEDIATELY REQUESTED US ASSISTANCE IN HIS NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PROGRAM AND PLEDGED HIS COOPERATION WITH DEA IN WHATEVER MANNER POSSIBLE. SINCE THAT TIME HE HAS INDEED LIVED UP TO HIS PLEDGE. HE HAS ESTABLISHED A DAS ACTION PLAN AGAINST NARCOTICS, NAMED OFFICERS AND PERSONNEL TO A NARCOTICS UNIT, 50 OF WHOM HAVE RECEIVED DEA IN-COUNTRY TRAINING, AND HAS AGREED TENTATIVELY ON A PROJECT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BOGOTA 01273 02 OF 03 101624Z

AGREEMENT FOR AID UNDER 482. AS OF 31 DEC 1974, THE DAS PRO-AG IN DRAFT WAS ON MATAILLANAS DESK AWAITING HIS REVIEW. RETIRED ARMY MAJOR RAUL OCAMPO WAS NAMED NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS AND HE ALSO EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO COLLABORATE CLOSELY WITH THE US IN IMPROVING CUSTOMS CAPABILITY IN NARCOTICS INTERDICTION. ALTHOUGH A NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PRO-AG HAD ALREADY BEEN SIGNED BY HIS PREDECESSOR, HE AGREED WITH THE CONTENT OF THE PRO-AG BUT THE CUSTOMS ACTION PLAN ESTABLISHED PRIOR TO HIS ARRIVAL WAS REVISED SLIGHTLY. THE LATTER VERSION CALLING FOR A UNIT OF 50 MEN ASSIGNED TO 8 GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRICTS WITH 3 OR MORE NARCOTICS SPECIALISTS IN EACH DISTRICT. HE NAMED LT COL MEJIA AS CHIEF OF CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT TO HEAD THE NARCOTICS UNIT HOWEVER, MAJIA WAS LATER SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO HIS ARMY DUTIES AS OF 1 JAN 1975. ALTHOUGH THIS REPORTING PERIOD HAS BEEN AN INCREASE IN CUSTOMS NARCOTICS INTERDICTION EFFORTS AND A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN SIEZURES AND ARRESTS BY CUSTOMS AGENTS, CUSTOMS GENERALLY HAS FAILED TO ATTAIN THE DEGREE OF SUCCESS EXPERIENCED BY DAS DURING THE SAME PERIOD. THE PRESIDENT RETAINED MAJOR GENERAL HENRY GARCIA-BORORQUEZ AS DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, AND ALSO CHARGED HIM TO INCREASE NATIONAL POLICE EFFORTS IN THE COMBINED NATIONAL PROGRAM OF NARCOTICS INTERDICTION. DR MIGUEL SANCHEZ-MENDEZ, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR JUDICIAL POLICE AND DR JORGE RESTREPO, SEC GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON NARCOTICS, BOTH OF WHOM HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE AND EFFECTIVE IN THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM, WERE ALSO RETAINED IN THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS. IN EFFECT, THE CHANGES IN PRESIDENTS, AND VARIOUS OTHER HIGH OFFICIALS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN BENEFICIAL TO THE OVERALL NARCOTICS INTERDICTION EFFORT. ALL OF THE COOPERATIVE OFFICIALS OF THE OUT GOING GOVERNMENT WERE RETAINED, AND THE NEW APPOINTEES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRES TO COOPERATE TO A MUCH GREATER DEGREE THAN THEIR PREDECESSORS. THE PROGNOSIS FOR THE NARCOTICS PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR APPEARS EXCELLENT.

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 01273 03 OF 03 101651Z

47

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 3 OF 3 BOGOTA 1273/3

DR DE LINCE, A LEADING SOCIOLOGIST IN COLOMBIA, WHO OWNS AND DIRECTS A WEEKLY NATIONALLY TELEVISED PROGRAM ON DRUG ABUSE WENT TO MEXICO, WASHINGTON, AND NEW YORK WHERE SHE FILMED INTERVIEWS WITH THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL, DEA DIRECTOR, SAODAP DIRECTOR, AND OTHER LEADING MEXICAN OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PROGRAMS. THE MATERIALS FILMED WILL BE PRESENTED THROUGHOUT THE COMING YEAR (1975) ON NATIONAL TV THE EMPHASIS BEING ON THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR DRUG CONTROL AND SHOWING THE DANGERS OF THE ILLICIT USE AND TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS. USIS SUPPORTED THE TRIP TO MEXICO, WASHDC, AND NEW YORK TO THE EXTENT OF 4,000 DOLLARS. DR DE LINCES PROGRAM RECEIVED TWO NATIONAL AWARDS IN 1974 AS THE BEST PROGRAM ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS.

(G) ENFORCEMENT: IMPORTANT OPERATIONS

DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD F-2 DAS AND AIRPORT NARCOTICS UNITS INDIVIDUALLY AND/OR JOINTLY COOPERATED IN 10 SEIZURES OF COCAINE, EACH BEING OF 1000 GRAMS AND MORE, TO AN APPROXIMATE TOTAL OF 135.9 KG.

ON 15 NOV 1974 IN THE NORTH EAST COAST IN JOINT DAS, COLOMBIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 01273 03 OF 03 101651Z

ARMY AND BDO OPERATIONS TO LOCATE CLANDESTINE AIRFIELDS, SMUGGLERS AND AIRCRAFT INVOLVED IN TRAFFICKING OF TON QUANTITIES OF MARIHAUAN THE GOC ARRESTED FOUR SUSPECTS AND SEIZED A LOABQTAR TWIN ENGINE AIRCRAFT. GROUND TO AIR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT WAS ALSO SEIZED.

ON DEC 2, 1974, ELDORADO AIRPORT NARCOTICS UNIT ARRESTED ONE FEMALE IN POSSESSION OF 1,166 GRAMS OF COCAINE. SHE WAS TO BOARD A BI FLIGHT WITH DESTINATION PANAMA-MIAMI PRIOR TO HER ARREST. THE NARCOTICS DETAIL REQUESTED BDO COOPERATION IN FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION

A BILATERAL OPERATION AIMED AT SUSPECT AIRCRAFTS INVOLVED BDO,

SA DAS AND COLOMBIAN ARMY UNITS ON THE NORTH-EASTERN COAST. FROM NOV 13 1974 TO DEC 4 1974, DAS AND ARMY UNITS WERE ALERTED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF FOREIGN AIRCRAFT FLYING INTO CLANDESTINE FIELDS TO PICK UP TON QUANTITIES OF MARIHUANA. DURING THIS TIME FOUR SUSPECT AIRCRAFT WERE SEIZED BY THE GOC. A TOTAL OF 3 SUSPECTS WERE ARRESTED.

IN EARLY DEC 1974, A BDO SPECIAL AGENT COORDINATED F-2 OPERATIONS IN THE META DEPARTMENT. ON DEC 12 AND 13 1974 F-2 AGENTS SEIZED 6,048 POUNDS OF COMPRESSED MARIHUANA AND ARRESTED TWO SUSPECTS.

ON DEC 16 1974 A COMBINED TASK FORCE COMPOSED OF REGION 5 AND BDO/DEA AGENTS AND F-2 NARCOTICS AGENTS SEIZED WHAT IS CERTAIN TO BE THE LARGEST CLANDESTINE COCAINE LABORATORY IN COLOMBIA. THE LABORATORY LOCATED IN A FARM ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF CALI, HAD AN ESTIMATED CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE A MINIMUM OF 50 KG OC COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE PER WEEK. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THE LABORATORY OCCUPIED APPROXIMATELY 2,500 FEET IN AREA. TWO 2-1/2 TON TRUCKS WERE USED TO REMOVE ALL THE EQUIPMENT CONFISCATED BY THE AUTHORITIES. SOPHISTICATED GLASSWARE, DRYING OVENS, A 30-TON JACK PRESS, 2 LARGE COMMERCIAL TYPE COOKERS, SEVERAL 1/4 INCH ELECTRIC DRILLS WHICH POWERED HEAVY DUTY HOME-MADE BEATER BLADES ON THREE FOOT SHAFTS, AND MIXING PLASTIC AND GLASS CONTAINERS ARE SOME OF THE ITEMS CONFISCATED. ALSO SEIZED WERE APPROXIMATELY 700 GALLONS OF ACETONE IN 55- GALLON DRUMS, 30 GALLONS OF ETHER, 16 GALLONS OF AMONIS SOLUTION, ETC. F-2 AGENTS SEIZED 2 KG OF COCA PASTE AND ARRESTED NINE DEFENDENTS.

ON AUG 24 THE NATIONAL POLICE ARRESTED A FORMER NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS UNIT OFFICER, SEIZED A DC-3 AIRPLANE AND APPROX. 100 KG OF COCAINE PASTE. THE SUSPECT HAD BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BOGOTA 01273 03 OF 03 101651Z

BY THE NATIONAL POLICE.

ON SEPT 17, THE NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS UNIT WITH THE DEA ASSISTANCE EXECUTED SEARCH WARRANTS ON 14 RESIDENCES IN AN ACTION AGAINST AN ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS "LOS COSTENOS". A TOTAL OF 20 KG OF COCAINE, 2,100 DOLLARS IN COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY, 5 HANDGUNS, 500 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION ASSORTED LAB PARAPHERNALIA AND 5 VEHICLES WERE SEIZED. THREE SUSPECTS WERE ARRESTED. THE NATIONAL POLICE OF COLOMBIA REPORTED THE FOLLOWING TOTAL SEIZURES AND ARRESTS FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD: 130 KG OF COCAINE, 55,565 KG OF MARIHUANA AND 561 ARRESTS. NOT INCLUDING SEIZURES BY COMBINED JUDICIAL POLICE UNIT AT BOGOTA AIRPORT. THIS UNIT ALONE SEIZED 80 KG OF COCAINE AND 183 GD OF MARIHAUAN DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. ALSO IN ADDITION TO THESE STATISTICS, COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS REPORTED 17 SEIZURES OF MARIHUANA THROUGHOUT COLOMBIA TOTALLING 1,992 KG AND FOUR SEIZURES OF COCAINE TOTALLING 4.8 KG DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD. COURT PROCESSING OF NARCOTICS CASES CONTINUES TO BE MARKED BY SOME CORRUPTION AND ARBITRARY ACTION ON THE PART OF SOME OF THE JUDGES. AS A RESULT, SEVERAL

JUDGES HAVE BEEN FIRED AND OTHERS REMAIN ON NOTICE, IN THE GOC EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE JUDICIAL IMAGE. HOWEVER, DR MIGUEL SANCHEZ-MEDNEZ, ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE DRAFTED A "LAW" AND IS READY TO BE PRESENTED TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES WHICH, IF PASSED, WOULD AUTHORIZE HIM TO SELECT JUDGES TO TRY THE NARCOTICS CASES ON AN ASSIGEND BASIS. THIS IS IN AN EFFORT TO CIRCUMVENT THE CORRUPTION MENTIONED ABOVE. CURRENT FIGURES ON THE DAS OPERATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE NEXT QUARTERLY REPORT. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT DAS WILL ASSUME A MUCH MORE AGGRESSIVE POSITION THAN IN THE PAST. DAS HAS ENTERED A SHAKEDOWN PERIOD AS READJUSTMENTS ARE BEING MADE IN PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATION. GENERAL MATALLANA WILL BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO BRING TO BEAR THE FULL IMPACT OF DAS CAPABILITY TO THE WAR ON NARCOTICS AS SOON AS COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND MOBILITY ARE IMPROVED. PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR AN AUTONOMOUS UNIT OF APPROXIMATELY 50 NARCOTICS OFFICERS WITHIN THE DAS JUDICIAL POLICE SECTION. THIS UNIT WILL BE HEADED BY AN OFFICER OF LTC. RANK AND WILL HAVE AUTHORITY TO OPERATE THROUGHOUT COLOMBIA. ADDITIONAL MEN WILL BE ASSIGNED AS NEEDED IN PRIORITY AREAS. THE NATIONAL POLICE EFFORT SHOWS MARKED IMPROVEMENT AND AT THE PRESENT TIME IS THE PRINCIPAL NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN COLOMBIA. THE STRENGTH OF THE NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS UNIT IS UP TO 120 AGENTS, WITH 60 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BOGOTA 01273 03 OF 03 101651Z

WORKING OUT OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE IN BOGOTA AND 60 ASSIGNED TO 10 PRIORITY AREA. ALL VEHICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT RECEIVED BY THE POLICE UNDER THE NARCOTICS INTERDICTION PROGRAM HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVELY DISTRIBUTED AND ASSIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR NARCOTICS WORK. THE 60 MEN IN THE CENTRAL OFFICE UTILIZED 19 OF THE VEHICLES AND 27 RADIOS, WHILE THE DEPARTMENTAL UNITS HAVE A TOTAL OF 19 VEHICLES AND 25 RADIOS. VAKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, NARCOTICS, SEMIANNUAL REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BOGOTA01273
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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Film Number: D750048-0105
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750264/aaaacfgm.tel
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEMI ANNUAL NARCOTICS REPORT
TAGS: SNAR, CO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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